

**Summary of Meeting**  
**BDAC Water Transfers Work Group**  
**August 12, 1998**  
**Twelfth Meeting**

***Key Points***

- Participants present at the meeting generally agreed with a two part approach to implement “protection” issue solutions. The first part includes establishing an informational clearinghouse. The second part would require additional analysis as a condition of SWRCB approval for a water rights change petition and DWR or USBR facility access. It was clarified that the additional analysis is solely for disclosure purposes so that decisions can be made with all parties in possession of complete and accurate information. It is not intended to require the SWRCB, DWR, or USBR to make additional formal “findings” beyond what they already do under existing authorities.
- It was strongly suggested and generally supported that a “workbook” be developed that would help transfer proponents develop all the necessary information for submission to the necessary state or federal agency. This would include recommendations for variable levels of analysis depending on the types of potential impacts that may occur from a particular transfer. For instance, a transfer derived from surface storage generally has little impact on socio-economics but can affect local hydrology. Thus, the focus of impact analysis would be on local hydrology, not socio-economics. On the other hand, water derived from land fallowing would have potential socio-economic impacts, but generally not hydrologic impacts. It is understood that such a workbook would be developed as part of the first-year Stage 1 activities (completed during 2000)
- Those present generally agreed that a “workbook” could include a checklist of items that need to be disclosed by a transfer proponent including issues such as potential land use conflicts (zoning, Williamson Act, others).
- Participants provided some editorial comments on the Draft Stage 1 Action list. CALFED staff will work to make the language more consistent with what is in the draft policy framework document.
- Those present discussed the issue of approval process streamlining. It was pointed out that if other water transfer issues identified are resolved, the approval process will automatically be streamlined. Most of what delays approval is incomplete data, unclear interpretations of Water Code statutes and lack of public involvement. Representatives from the SWRCB made it clear that much of their delays are caused by applicants not resolving outstanding issues before coming to the Board. Better preparation on the part of proponents would be useful. Reference was made to the Delta Water Transfer Handbook (available through Bookman Edmonston Engineering, Inc. for \$60). Suggestions were made to have the “workbook” concept expanded to provide checklists of who should be involved in transfer discussion at what point in time, an expansion of what is in the transfer handbook.

The next meeting of the BDAC Water Transfer Work Group is scheduled for:

**Thursday, September 24, 1998 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Location to be determined)**